

NASA Innovative Advanced Concept Program

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The NASA Innovative Advanced Concept Program is a program that supports early studies of innovative, yet credible, visionary concepts that could one day “change the possible” in aerospace. NIAC concepts must be exciting, unexplored, and have the potential to enable entirely new missions or great leaps in capabilities. Since its return to NASA in 2010, NIAC has funded 72 Phase I (~nine months, \$100K) and 20 Phase II (two years, \$500K) studies. While open to the full range of aerospace and aeronautics missions, 17 of the Phase I studies and 3 of the Phase II studies have been primarily focused on advanced propulsion. This presentation will provide an overview of the NIAC program and opportunities for the advanced space propulsion community to participate.